

In the Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) In a media gateway, a method of identifying a connection for a call, the method comprising the steps of:

receiving a command from an associated media gateway controller to establish the connection for the call;

determining a value for an end-to-end call identifier (EECID);

sending the EECID to the associated media gateway controller;

establishing the connection for the call with ~~the far-end~~ a far-end media gateway so that the EECID is associated with the connection and the call; and

notifying the associated media gateway controller that the connection has been established.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the value of the EECID is a randomly generated number.

3. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the value of the EECID is the same as that of a network call correlation identifier.

4. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the value of the EECID is the same as that of a backward network connection identifier.

5. (Original) In a media gateway controller, a method of identifying a connection for a call, the method comprising the steps of:

receiving a notification to establish the connection;

negotiating connection parameters with a far-end media gateway controller;

determining a value for an end-to-end call identifier (EECID);

sending the EECID to an associated media gateway and to the far-end media gateway controller so that the EECID is associated with the connection and the call; and

receiving a notification from the associated media gateway that the connection has been established.

6. (Original) The method of claim 5 wherein the notification to establish a connection is an offhook notification.

7. (Original) The method of claim 5 wherein the notification to establish a connection is a request to negotiate parameters, the request being received from the far-end media gateway controller.

8. (Original) The method according to any of claims 5 through 7 wherein the value of the EECID is a randomly generated number.

9. (Original) The method according to any of claim 5 through 7 wherein the value of the EECID is the same as that of session-ID.

10. (Original) The method according to any of claims 5 through 7 wherein the value of the EECID is the same as that of a backward network connection identifier.

11. (Original) The method according to any of claims 5 through 7 wherein the value of the EECID is the same as that of a call-ID.

12. (Currently Amended) A computer program product for enabling a media gateway to identify a connection for a call, the computer program product including a media with a computer program embodied therein, the computer program comprising:

computer program code for receiving a command from an associated media gateway controller to establish the connection for the call;

computer program code for determining a value for an end-to-end call identifier (EECID);

computer program code for sending the EECID to the associated media gateway controller;

computer program code for establishing the connection for the call with ~~the far-end~~ a far-end media gateway so that the EECID is associated with the connection and the call; and

computer program code for notifying the associated media gateway controller that the connection has been established.

13. (Original) The computer program product of claim 12 wherein the value of the EECID is a randomly generated number.

14. (Original) The computer program product of claim 12 wherein the value of the EECID is the same as that of a network call correlation identifier.

15. (Original) The computer program product of claim 12 wherein the value of the EECID is the same as that of a backward network connection identifier.

16. (Original) A computer program product for enabling a media gateway controller to identify a connection for a call, the computer program product including a media with a computer program embodied thereon, the computer program comprising:

computer program code for receiving a notification to establish the connection;

computer program code for negotiating connection parameters with a far-end media gateway controller;

computer program code for determining a value for an end-to-end call identifier (EECID);

computer program code for sending the EECID to an associated media gateway and to the far-end media gateway controller so that the EECID is associated with the connection and the call; and;

computer program code for receiving a notification from the associated media gateway that the connection has been established.

17. (Original) The computer program product of claim 16 wherein the notification to establish a connection is an offhook notification.

18. (Original) The computer program product of claim 16 wherein the notification to establish a connection is a request to negotiate parameters, the request being received from the far-end media gateway controller.

19. (Currently Amended) A switching system including a computing module and associated switching fabrics and network interfaces, the switching system operable as a media gateway which is programmed to identify a connection for a call by performing the steps of:

receiving a command from an associated media gateway controller to establish the connection for the call;

determining a value for an end-to-end call identifier (EECID);

sending the EECID to the associated media gateway controller;

establishing the connection for the call with ~~the far-end~~ a far-end media gateway so that the EECID is associated with the connection and the call; and

notifying the associated media gateway controller that the connection has been established.

20. (Original) The switching system of claim 19 wherein the value of the EECID is a randomly generated number.

21. (Original) The switching system of claim 19 wherein the value of the EECID is the same as that of a network call correlation identifier.

22. (Original) The switching system of claim 19 wherein the value of the EECID is the same as that of a backward network connection identifier.

23. (Original) A computer system operable as a media gateway controller which is programmed to identify a connection for a call by performing the steps of:

receiving a notification to establish the connection;

negotiating connection parameters with a far-end media gateway controller;

determining a value for an end-to-end call identifier (EECID);

sending the EECID to an associated media gateway and to the far-end media gateway controller so that the EECID is associated with the connection and the call; and
receiving a notification from the associated media gateway that the connection has been established.

24. (Original) The computer system of claim 23 wherein the notification to establish a connection is an offhook notification.

25. (Original) The computer system of claim 23 wherein the notification to establish a connection is a request to negotiate parameters, the request being received from the far-end media gateway controller.

28 26. (Currently Amended) Apparatus operable to identify a connection for a call in a packet network, the apparatus comprising:

means for receiving a command from an associated media gateway controller to establish the connection for the call;

means for determining a value for an end-to-end call identifier (EECID);

means for sending the EECID to the associated media gateway controller; and

means for establishing the connection for the call with ~~the far-end~~ a far-end media gateway so that the EECID is associated with the connection and the call.

29 27. (Currently Amended) Apparatus which associates an end-to-end call identifier with a connection for a call, the apparatus comprising:

means for receiving a notification to establish the connection;

means for computer program code for negotiating connection parameters with a far-end media gateway controller;

means for determining a value for an end-to-end call identifier (EECID); and

means for sending the EECID to an associated media gateway and to the far-end media gateway controller so that the EECID is associated with the connection and the call.

30 28. (Currently Amended) In a multimedia packet network, a method of identifying a connection for a call comprising the steps of:

at a media gateway controller, notifying an associated media gateway to establish the connection for the call;

determining a value for an end-to-end call identifier (EECID) at the associated media gateway;

sending the EECID from the associated media gateway to the media gateway controller so that the EECID is associated with the connection and the call at all media gateways and media gateway controllers involved in the call; and

establishing the connection for the call at the associated media gateway and notifying the media gateway controller that the connection has been established.

31 29. (Currently Amended) In a multimedia packet network, a method of identifying a connection for a call comprising the steps of:

receiving a notification at a media gateway controller to establish a connection for a call;

negotiating connection parameters at the media gateway controller;

selecting an end-to-end call identifier (EECID) at the media gateway controller;

notifying an associated media gateway of the EECID as part of a command issued to the associated media gateway by the media gateway controller to establish the connection; and

establishing the connection for the call at the associated media gateway.

32 30. (Currently Amended) A multimedia packet network including at least one media gateway controller connected to an associated media gateway, the media gateway controller operable to control the associated media gateway, the media gateway controller and the associated media gateway programmed to enable the identification of a connection for a call by performing the steps of:

notifying the associated media gateway to establish the connection for the call;

determining a value for an end-to-end call identifier (EECID) at the associated media gateway;

sending the EECID from the associated media gateway to the media gateway controller so that the EECID is associated with the connection and the call at all media gateways and media gateway controllers involved in the call; and

establishing the connection for the call at the associated media gateway and notifying the media gateway controller that the connection has been established.

33 31. (Currently Amended) A multimedia packet network including at least one media gateway controller connected to an associated media gateway, the media gateway controller operable to control the associated media gateway, the media gateway controller and the associated media gateway programmed to enable the identification of a connection for a call by performing the steps of:

receiving a notification at the media gateway controller to establish a connection for a call;

negotiating connection parameters at the media gateway controller;

selecting an end-to-end call identifier (EECID) at the media gateway controller;

notifying an associated media gateway of the EECID as part of a command issued to the associated media gateway by the media gateway controller to establish the connection; and

establishing the connection for the call at the associated media gateway.